

Working for you

www.nunes.house.gov

Rep. Devin Nunes



Securing our fuel supply

After months of enduring hefty gasoline and diesel prices, as well as rising natural gas costs, it is safe to say none of us take for granted the energy that puts our society in motion any longer.

In the House of Representatives, we recently passed a bill known as the Gasoline for America's Security Act. It's not an immediate solution to high gasoline and diesel prices but the provisions should ensure that there is an ample fuel supply to guard against shortages that cause skyrocketing prices.



Rep. Devin Nunes

Highlights of the GAS Act:

- Encourages construction of new refineries to increase supply;
- Promotes new pipelines to get new crude oil and refined product to consumers at lower prices;
- Limits "boutique fuels" that have propped up gasoline prices by artificially limiting supply;
- Promotes conservation through carpooling and a fuel-efficiency awareness campaign;
- Bans price gouging in gasoline or diesel fuel sales; and
- Requires a Federal Trade Commission (FTC) study into credit card company processing fees, which may inflate consumer costs.

While this bill has passed the House, it is still awaiting a vote in the Senate and a signature by the President. I am optimistic that these new policies and practices will help shape a more affordable, clean and efficient future for us all.



If you have a problem with a federal agency, please don't hesitate to stop by or call my offices in Visalia or Clovis.

Visalia — 559-733-3861
113 N. Church St., Suite 208
Visalia, CA 93291

Clovis — 559-323-5235
264 Clovis Ave., Suite 206
Clovis, CA 93612

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515
Official Business

Devin Nunes

M.C.
PRSR1 STD

This mailing was prepared, published and mailed at taxpayer expense.

ANWR: Ensuring our domestic oil needs

If you've ever been on a trip with young children, you probably grow quickly tired of one question... "Are we there yet?"

Well, for more than 30 years, gasoline consumers here in the United States have been asking when this country will develop its own domestic supply to wean ourselves from foreign sources and possibly lower historically high prices.

So, are we there yet? Not quite, but we're closer than we have ever been. Earlier this year, the Senate voted to open the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to oil exploration on just 2,000 acres of the 19 million acre refuge.

To help put it into perspective, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA), the estimate of recoverable oil in ANWR is 10.3 billion barrels.

- ◆ That's more than twice the proven oil reserves in all of Texas.
- ◆ That's almost half of the total U.S. proven reserve of 22 billion barrels.
- ◆ That represents a possible 45% increase in total U.S. proven reserves.
- ◆ Reports show that energy development in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) would increase domestic production by nearly 20% by 2025.

In April 2003, I traveled to Alaska and the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge with other members of the House Committee on Resources for a Congressional hearing on exploring for oil in ANWR and its potential benefits.

Instead of trees, green landscapes and mountains as often depicted on television, I was stunned to see hundreds of square miles of flat land covered in ice.

Some groups have opposed exploring for oil in the refuge because the activity may have a negative affect on wildlife.

After talking with the people who lived up there, they said you don't find wildlife in the area because there's nothing for the wildlife to eat. If we're going to explore for oil, this seems to be the ideal place in terms of its very limited impact on the environment. Modern technology has made oil exploration cleaner and more environmentally friendly than ever before.

By increasing the domestic supply of oil, the United States can cut back on billions of dollars spent overseas.

ANWR's 10.3 billion barrels of oil equals over \$300 billion worth of investment here at home. It also means over \$120



Rep. Devin Nunes and other members of the House Resources Committee (above) hold a field hearing in ANWR in 2003.

billion in federal revenue that could be used for Medicare, Social Security, or important

1 million barrels of oil is equal to:

A 3.7 million acre wind farm (the size of Rhode Island and Connecticut combined) AND gale-force winds 365 days a year, every year, for more than 30 years.

A 448,000 acre solar panel expanse AND beach-worthy, sun-shiny days 365 days a year, every year, for 30 years. (Paul K. Driessen, Atlas Economic Research Foundation)

Seniors benefit from Medicare plan

Rep. Devin Nunes hosted a visit by Medicare Administrator Mark McClellan (at right) in Fresno this summer to discuss with health care leaders a new prescription drug benefit for seniors. Enrollment in the new voluntary plan begins this month and the benefits begin in January. The plan will mean substantial savings on prescription drug costs to those who are on Medicare.

For more information on the enrollment process and details of the plan, please call Medicare toll free at (800) 633-4227 or online at www.medicare.gov.



Veterans relive their harrowing tales

Rep. Devin Nunes (at right) kicked off a local effort this summer to record the stories of veterans to be included in the archives of the Library of Congress.

"By recording veteran's stories, we are helping to ensure that future generations of Americans understand, from first hand accounts, the struggles from World War II to the current War on Terror," Rep. Nunes said.

In the photo at the right, the congressman talks with James Bray of Clovis about his experiences as a young Merchant Marine serving in the Pacific during World War II.



Natural Gas

Rep. Devin Nunes has been on the forefront of legislation that would make it easier to develop facilities for the transport of liquefied natural gas (LNG).

Natural gas is an excellent choice for our environment: its clean-burning properties help communities comply with tough air quality standards and reduce greenhouse gas effects.

The Energy Policy Act of 2005 will enable more natural gas exploration, transportation, and development to help ensure a reliable and affordable flow of energy into homes and businesses.

American families, businesses, and farmers all rely on natural gas to survive. More than half of U.S. homes use natural gas as their main heating fuel.

Natural gas is the backbone of American manufacturing; when natural gas prices are tight, all varieties of businesses suffer from the high prices.

Farmers rely on natural gas to produce the fertilizer needed for the crops that become the food on the dinner tables of every American.

U.S. demand for natural gas is at an all time high. It is a primary fuel source for the nation's electricity, industrial, and residential sectors, comprising 23% of our total energy consumption emissions.

Natural gas is also the cleanest fossil fuel, resulting in about 50%



Tankers carrying liquefied natural gas, such as this one above, have limited access to the U.S. because of too few terminals at seaports. There is only one terminal on the West Coast in Alaska. Congress passed legislation that makes it easier for the clean-burning fuel to get into the country.

Despite high demand and widespread support for increased natural gas production, construction and expansion of LNG facilities is at a standstill.

less carbon dioxide than coal and 33% less than oil. The Energy Policy Act of 2005 will simplify the regulatory process for building liquefied natural gas (LNG) terminals, allowing the industry to accelerate the production and import of LNG - lowering energy costs for American consumers.

LNG currently makes up 2-3% of the US natural gas supply; by 2025 this could rise to 20% according to the Department of Energy.

Rep. Nunes supports establishing terminals in California ports to aid in the delivery of this vital energy resource. Clean burning fuel is critical to our future and California needs to lead the effort to secure a reliable supply.

Ag Secretary, Ag Chairman visit the Valley

In August, Rep. Devin Nunes was pleased to host separate visits by U.S. Agriculture Secretary Mike Johanns (at right) and House Agriculture Committee Chairman Bob Goodlatte. The congressman requested they tour the Central Valley to gain a better understanding of California's unique and abundant agricultural industry. Both officials quickly recognized and praised the efforts of local farmers as being innovators in the industry and good stewards of the land and environment.

Rep. Nunes said he was confident both men could now make better decisions on issues that would affect the Central Valley.



Nunes introduces bill to ensure stable water supply

After more than 13 years on the books, it's time to change select portions of Central Valley water law that has proven unduly burdensome to users and ineffective for environmental benefits.

Rep. Nunes introduced the Central Valley Project Reform Act of 2005. The bill seeks to amend parts of the Central Valley Project Improvement Act of 1992 (CVPIA), which the congressman said contains provisions that have not been met; are punitive; and result in no environmental benefit.

"Even the staunchest supporters of CVPIA recognize that it has failed on a number of counts," Rep. Nunes said. "This bill corrects those problems and makes sure our precious water resources are managed efficiently and the program is accountable to achieve its goals."

In 1992, CVPIA was intended to make the water supply for municipal, industrial and agricultural purposes an equal priority with fish and wildlife uses, and to make wildlife enhancement an equal priority with power generation. Yet, after more than a decade and expenditure of more than \$750 million, the disappointing result is diminished water reliability for users and no identifiable benefit for the environment.

Rep. Nunes' Reform Act preserves and clarifies several provisions under the CVPIA, some of which include:

- Continues to reserve



Earlier this year, the water level has been just inches away from flowing over the spillway at Lake Kaweah in Tulare County. Despite an abundant rain season, the Central Valley still struggles from previous years of drought conditions and greater water demand.

800,000 acre-feet of CVP water for the environment.

- Maintains current CVPIA obligation to provide firm water supplies to wildlife refuges and to increase supplies over 10 years.

- Maintains Restoration Fund and surcharges on CVP water and power customers.

- Continues to target restoration efforts on salmon and steelhead species.

Among the changes the bill seeks to enact includes:

- Prohibits the release of water from Friant Dam for purposes other than flood control

or to meet contractual obligations.

- Provides for CVPIA payments to be credited against repayment of the CVP.

- Provides for the use of Restoration funds collected from Friant Division be used for water acquisition and facility construction.

- Replaces the CVP only obligation to double anadromous fish with a requirement of participation in the large state effort established by the Salmon, Steelhead, Trout and Anadromous Fisheries Program.